

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

DRC-01 /102 W

----- 112677

R 131540Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4724

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 29218

NOFORN

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJ: NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE

1. JACQUES GASSEAU INFORMED LABATT THAT HE EXPECTS TO BE NAMED AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE, AND WOULD REACH HIS POST IN FEBRUARY/MARCH 1974. GASSEAU, BORN JULY 25, 1922, HAS NOW RANK OF MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY. HE WAS ORIGINALLY IN THE FAR EASTERN SERVICE OF THE MFA, BUT APPARENTLY SERVED ABROAD ONLY FROM 1958 TO 1963 IN RIO DE JANEIRO. LABATT CONSIDERS HIM INTELLIGENT, INDEPENDENT MINDED, OUTSPOKEN, AND, IN GENERAL, FRIENDLY WITH AMERICANS. HE WILL APPARENTLY BE STUDYING ENGLISH PRIOR TO GOING TO SINGAPORE. AIRGRAM WITH ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW.

2. GASSEAU WAS APPARENTLY PROPOSED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO LAOS IN 1972, BUT OPPOSITION OF KEY QUAI OFFICIALS WHO THOUGHT HE WOULD BE TOO INDEPENDENT, REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN THE WITHDRAWAL OF HIS NOMINATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY WORKED ON INDOCHINA COUNTRIES DURING THE COLONIAL PERIOD. UNTIL FORMALITIES ARE COMPLETED AND ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE, HIS ASSIGNMENT SHOULD BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

IRWIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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